

## Quoting in a Literary Essay—Reminders:

### Citations are as follows:

- ✓ *end quote followed by (p) followed by period*

**Ex.** “Lennie, who had been watching, imitated George exactly” (4).

**\*Exception:** If quoting a question or exclamation, include that mark inside the quotation marks:

question: ““Give you what, George?”” (8).

exclamation: ““Gi’me that mouse!”” (8).

### Rules:

**1. 3 typed lines or fewer = integrate quote into paragraph.**

#### Example.

When George confronts Lennie about the mouse in his pocket, Lennie denies it: ““Give you what, George?”” (8). Lennie clearly doesn’t understand why George is angry, further suggesting Lennie’s mental limitation.

**2. More than 3 lines typed = Block Quote**

- ✓ indent entire quote
- ✓ no quotation marks
- ✓ keep double-spacing
- ✓ when you move to the explanation, return to the original margin

#### Example.

The symbolism provided in the opening page of the novel serves as an excellent introduction to biblical illusions in the Garden of Eden:

...willows fresh and green with every spring, carrying in their lower leaf junctures the debris of the winter’s flooding; and branches that arch over the pool. On the sandy bank under the trees the leaves lie deep and so crisp that a lizard makes a great skittering if he runs among them. (1)

However, the reader notices that this Edenic setting is somewhat corrupt, based on the desert images in the midst of the lush forest.

**3. Quoting Dialogue: keep consistent with the format in the book (see rule 4 below for how to quote within a quote).**

**Example.**

Despite George's short temper, it is clear the relationship between George and Lennie transcends mere friendship to a level of brotherhood:

'If them other guys gets in jail they can rot for all anybody gives a damn. But not us.'

Lennie broke in. '*But not us! An' why? Because...because I got you to look after me, and you got me to look after you, and that's why*'. (14)

They have history together and have persevered together, which makes their situation different from most men on the ranch.

**4. Quoting a quote: Use double-quotes (“”) around the narrator's words and single quotes (‘’) around the quotation/dialogue being quoted.**

**Example.**

...as illustrated in the following passage: “George went on. ‘With us it ain’t like that.

We got a future’” (14).

**AND MOST IMPORTANTLY:**

As you choose quotations for a literary analysis, remember the purpose of quoting. Your paper develops an argument about what the author of the text is doing--how the text "works." You use quotations to support this argument; that is, you select, present, and discuss material from the text specifically to "prove" your point—to make your case--in much the same way a lawyer brings evidence before a jury.

Quoting for any other purpose is counterproductive. Don't quote to "tell the story" or otherwise convey basic information about the text; assume the reader knows the text. Don't quote just for the sake of quoting or just to fill up space. Don't make the reader jump up and shout "Irrelevant!"

Quotations must be integrated thoughtfully and with purpose. Simply placing a quotation into a body paragraph is not enough to ensure that your argument has been adequately supported. In fact, the use of a quotation should be thought of as a supplement to the core idea that you are proposing. If you cannot link the quotation back to the sub-topic and thesis succinctly and accurately, then the quotation will not be an effective support to the thesis and it should not be used.